

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 04036 01 OF 02 131809Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 085237

R 131801Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1061

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04036

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: SPD DISARRAY CONTINUES

1. SUMMARY. THE SPD AS YET SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS, THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHICH THE ELECTION IN HAMBURG (BONN 3606) MADE UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR, ARE ABOUT TO BE RESOLVED QUICKLY. ON THE CONTRARY, INTERNAL PARTY DISSENSION HAS LATELY INCREASED, OR AT /EAST BECOME MORE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

DOHNANYI BEGAN A SECOND BAD WEEK IN SUCCESSION FOR THE SPD. HE CALLED UPON THE PARTY TO RELIEVE BRANDT OF SOME OF HIS BURDENS AND SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO NAME A "SECOND CHANCELLOR" FOR DOMESTIC MATTERS. DOHNANYI THEN GAVE A SECOND INTERVIEW TO DENOUNCE ALLEGED DISTORTIONS IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST, BUT REPEATED HIS VIEW OF THE NEED TO RELIEVE THE CHANCELLOR OF SOME OF HIS BURDENS, A RECOMMENDATION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 04036 01 OF 02 131809Z

LIKELY TO RECEIVE LITTLE SYMPATHY IN A PARTY THAT FEELS

THAT ONE OF ITS MAJOR PROBLEMS HAS BEEN THE LACK OF EFFORT BY BRANDT--AND OF COURSE EVEN LESS SYMPATHY FROM BRANDT HIMSELF.

3. THEN FINANCE MINISTER SCHMIDT SAID ON TV THAT THE SPD WAS "TOO LAX", "BY FAR TOO GENEROUS", AND ADDED THAT A MERE SHUFFLE OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE TO GET AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM. THESE REMARKS WERE SEEN AS BEING CLEARLY DIRECTED AT BRANDT, AND THE MEDIA DID NOT HESITATE TO SPELL OUT THAT ASPECT EVEN MORE EXPLICITLY.

4. AFTER SCHMIDT'S STATEMENTS THE CHANCELLOR, ALSO ON TELEVISION AND NOT LOOKING AT ALL WELL, SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE NO CABINET CHANGES UNTIL MAY 15, THE DATE SET FOR ELECTION OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT, AND THAT THE CHANGES WOULD BE "FEWER RATHER THAN MANY". HE ADDED THAT WHEN HE HAD FIRST FORMED THE CABINET THERE HAD BEEN NO OIL OR RAW MATERIAL CRISIS AND NO WORLD CURRENCY CRISIS, BUT AS HE DID NOT SAY WHAT RELEVANCE THOSE FACTS HAD TO THE SPD'S CURRENT DISARRAY, HIS STATEMENT SEEMED HIGHLY DEFENSIVE AND CLARIFIED NOTHING.

5. PUBLIC WASHING OF THE SPD'S DIRTY LINEN HAS BECOME A DAILY MATTER LATELY, WITH SOUR COMMENTS ALSO FROM NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA MINISTER PRESIDENT KEUHN, FRANKFURT LORD MAYOR ARNDT, AND HOUSING MINISTER VOGEL, AMONG OTHERS. THERE IS ALSO AGAIN THE RUMOR--NOW SEVERAL YEARS OLD--THAT WEHNER IS "ABOUT" TO STEP DOWN AS SPD FLOOR LEADER IN THE BUNDESTAG.

6. ON MARCH 12 THE CHANCELLOR ANGRILY REASSERTED HIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 04036 02 OF 02 131812Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 085259

R 131801Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04036

LEADERSHIP. HE TOLD A MEETING OF SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES THAT HE DOES NOT NEED TO BE UNBURDENED, BUT RATHER THAT THE SPD NEEDS MORE DISCIPLINE AND ITS MEMBERS LESS SELFISHNESS. SITTING NEXT TO WEHNER, WHOM HE DID NOT EVEN GREET, AND IN SCHMIDT'S HIGHLY VISIBLE ABSENCE, BRANDT TOLD HIS SILENT AUDIENCE THAT HE INTENDS TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE GIVEN HIM IN 1972 AND EXPECTS HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES TO CLOSE RANKS BEHIND HIM AND STOP THE INTERNAL BICKERING.

7. COMMENT. WHAT ALL THIS ADDS UP TO IS HARD TO SAY PRECISELY--BUT AT LEAST IT INDICATES THE SPD'S CONTINUING INABILITY TO REVERSE THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCES WITHIN ITSELF AND BEGIN THE STRUGGLE TO ATTAIN THE COHESION AND PURPOSE IT WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO LEAD THE FRG. CERTAINLY THE PROBLEMS OF THE SPD HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 04036 02 OF 02 131812Z

LONG BEEN TOO SEVERE TO BE SOLVED BY AN ORATION EVEN FROM AN ANGRY CHANCELLOR. UNTIL THE POLICY ISSUES AND PERSONALITY CONFLICTS ARE RESOLVED--E.G., THE LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE LEFT RADICALISM WITHIN THE PARTY, WEHNER VS. SCHMIDT--THE SPD'S MALAISE WILL CONTINUE.
HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY DISSENSION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN04036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740348/aaaabsql.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPD DISARRAY CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, GE, SPD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005